

Appl. No. 09/998,724
Amdt. dated 1/6/06
Reply to Office action of October 12, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-11 and 13-28 remain in the application. Claims 5-11 and 13-28 are subject to examination and claims 1-4 have been withdrawn from examination. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8 and 11 have been amended.

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102", item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 11 and 28 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,519,191 to Ketcham et al. (hereinafter Ketcham) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103", item 2 on pages 3-4 of the Office Action, claims 5-7, 14 and 17-20 have been rejected as being obvious over Ketcham in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,474,746 to Maus et al. (hereinafter Maus '746) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103", item 3 on pages 4-6 of the Office Action, claims 8-10, 15 and 21-24 have been rejected as being obvious over Ketcham in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,130,208 to Maus et al. (hereinafter Maus '208) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

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In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103", item 4 on page 6 of the Office Action, claim 13 has been rejected as being obvious over Ketcham in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,514,347 to Ohashi et al. (hereinafter Ohashi) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103", item 5 on pages 6-7 of the Office Action, claims 16 and 25-27 have been rejected as being obvious over Ketcham under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and, therefore, the claims have not been amended to overcome the references. Nevertheless, the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in the Bauer et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,714,103) which teaches producing ceramic catalyst supports by printing layers and is incorporated by reference in the instant application and the specification of the instant application which discloses ceramic walls all being entirely formed of printed layers.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

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Independent claim 5 calls for, *inter alia*, "ceramic walls all being entirely formed of printed layers."

Independent claim 8 calls for, *inter alia*, "at least partially ceramic walls all being entirely formed of printed layers."

Independent claim 11 calls for, *inter alia*, "walls all being entirely formed of said printed layers."

The Examiner has stated repeatedly that the Ketcham reference discloses ceramic walls formed of printed layers. The Examiner has specifically cited column 9, lines 30-32 of Ketcham as disclosing printed layers.

However, contrary to the Examiner's opinion that Ketcham discloses printed layers, the reference merely discloses the lamination of several layers, namely two flexible ceramic sheets and three layers of stainless steel foil. Thus, the reference discloses neither the ceramic layers nor the steel layers being printed but merely several foils being laminated by pressing between molding surfaces (see column 9, lines 21 to 33 of Ketcham).

Clearly, column 9, lines 30-32 of Ketcham discloses only laminated sheets, not printed layers. In fact, neither the word print nor any form of that word can be found when

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searching the entire Ketcham reference. Accordingly, it is believed that each of claims 5, 8 and 11 which previously recited printed layers were patentable over Ketcham, whether taken alone or in any combination with other references.

Furthermore, Ketcham is merely directed to the manufacture of a heating element and not a honeycomb body. Fig. 4 discloses a honeycomb body but nevertheless only the flexible base sheet 62 is manufactured by laminating different layers (see column 10, lines 57 to 62). Therefore, even if the Ketcham reference were to teach how to provide printed layers - which it does not - Ketcham does not teach how to provide honeycomb bodies according to claims 5, 8 and 11 of the instant application.

Nevertheless, in order to make the differences between the claims and Ketcham even clearer, the claims have been amended to call for:

ceramic walls all being entirely formed of printed layers in claim 5,

at least partially ceramic walls all being entirely formed of printed layers in claim 8, and

walls all being entirely formed of said printed layers in claim 11.

Clearly, Ketcham does not show printed layers and even more clearly does not show walls all being entirely formed of said printed layers, as recited in claims 5, 8 and 11 of the

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instant application.

Thus, it is believed that the claims in their previous form were not anticipated by Ketcham and it is even clearer that Ketcham does not teach having all walls entirely formed of printed layers.

Furthermore, one skilled in the art would not obtain any hint whatsoever as how to improve the teaching of Ketcham to reach a honeycomb body having channels with walls wherein all of the walls are entirely formed by printed layers.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 5, 8 and 11. Claims 5, 8 and 11 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are also believed to be patentable because they all ultimately depend on claims 5, 8 or 11.

Once again, rejoinder of claims 1-4 is requested and required by MPEP 821.04, since the method claims include all of the limitations of the product claims.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11 and 13-28 are solicited.

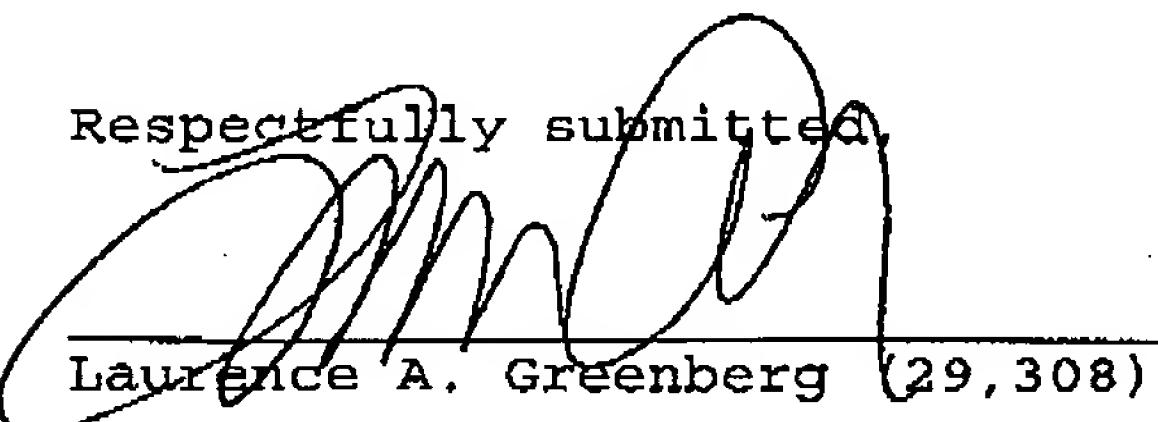
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In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099. Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


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